



St John's School Newsletter

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Issue 2: 25th February 2022

Principal's Page:

Swim Week

Thanks to all those parents who helped drive the van and helped children at swim week last week. It was much appreciated.

Also thank you to Ryan and Geraldine Dowling for the use of their van for the week.

The PTA would also like to thank Anna and Luke Jeffries for the use of their Naseby house for the swimming instructor, Jo Blackie.

Swimming Sports

After staff discussion and reading Ministry of Education information we have decided not to hold our swimming sports this year.

The reason for this is that schools are being encouraged to keep classes separate as much as possible to limit the number of children and teaching staff who may get flu and cold symptoms at one time therefore avoiding most staff and children being home sick at one time. So bringing us together in one pool environment does not seem a sensible option in the present times.

Parent Information Evening

Thank you to those parents who attended our parent information evening last Tuesday. It was great to see many of you there.

World Book Day

Next **Thursday 3rd March** is World Book Day.

We would like to have a "Dress-up as a book character day". Children can dress up as any character from any book. They can come along to school dressed up for the day.



Stationery

A reminder that all beginning of the year stationery accounts should be paid now. If you haven't paid this, could you please do so asap. Thank you.

PTA

- A PTA meeting is to be held on **Thursday 10 March 7.30p.m. at school.** Please remember to wear a mask if you are attending this meeting.
- The PTA has a messenger page set up that is used for communication regarding relevant information at certain times, eg, catering for funerals or other occasions. If you would like to be added to this messenger page please let the school know by text message to the school cellphone. Thank you.

Stray Kittens

The children enjoyed the company of 3 stray kittens who spent last week at school. We managed to rehome them to two school families!

Here are some photos.



Special Character Clipboard:

Special Character Clipboard

Wednesday the 2nd March is **Ash Wednesday**. This is a very important day of the year for Catholics. It marks the beginning of Lent, the 40 day preparation for Easter. Traditionally, Ash Wednesday and Lent were times of fasting and abstinence. But now we are encouraged to put God first in our daily lives and do more to help others.

This year each class will be holding their own class prayer liturgy to mark Ash Wednesday.

Children will not receive the traditional cross mark of ash on their foreheads due to Covid restrictions.

Junior Class News:

*Here are some photos of the Junior Class enjoying their week long swim lessons.



*One of our shared books for the week was called "Pig, the Winner." Here are some of the children's writing about this story:

Pig liked to win the races. If he lost, he cried and he stomped.
By Jimmy Jeffries

Pig is a pug dog and Trevor is a sausage dog. Pig wanted to win. He has red eyes. He is black and white and he is a cheat.
By Millie Smith

Pig eats too much and too fast. Pig swallowed his bowl. Trevor got the bowl out. Pig is a pug dog.
By Jack Jeffries

Pig swallowed his bowl because he was eating too fast.
By Evie Steele



Here are 2 photos of Pig (aka as Jack Jeffries) acting as Pig the pug dog.



Middle Class News:



We've had a busy few weeks in the Middle Room with getting into our routines and having Swim Week. It has been great having a full week in the classroom and we are well and truly into the swing of things. The children are doing really well at checking our timetables to see where and what they are supposed to be doing next.

This week we started our Addition and Subtraction strategy work in Maths and I have been impressed with how quickly the children are catching on to new strategies. Knowing their basic facts to ten has really helped!

Thank you to the Parents that could make it to our Information Evening. I enjoyed meeting you all. If you couldn't make it and have any questions please don't hesitate to email me.

Swim Week

What a busy week this was! The children have all told me that they thought they had all improved at something during the swim week. I was really impressed with what I saw when I got down to the pool.



Splash! Brrrr! The freezing pool water made me feel cold. Last week it was swim week at the Ranfurly Pool. There was a swim teacher called Jo. She taught me how to float on my back and kick on my back. The float board made it a lot easier. It was really awesome.

By Zach Tomalon

Splash! I dived into the cool relaxing water at the Ranfurly pool where I powered up my engines and started kicking along with my three-stroke breathing.

Last week was the St John's swim week and our teacher was Jo Blackie. She helped me with my tumble turning. Jo also taught me how to swim and helped me achieve my goals at Alexandra pool for 5 years. I passed her swim school a year ago. She was a good teacher the last time I saw her in Alex, but now I think she is the best.

I can't wait until next year to achieve more goals with Jo!

By Jae McAuley



Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

There is great excitement in the Middle Room as we get closer to the end of our novel, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and then watch the movie. Our imaginations have run wild while listening to the marvellous world that Roald Dahl has created. Last week the children had to make up what food they would have if they could invent a bubblegum meal.

As I dunk the bubblegum into my mouth I can automatically taste pizza. All of the cheese makes me feel like I am in Italy. I can feel the crispy crust and the ham trickle down my throat. Next comes the delicious taste of vanilla cake with a cherry on top. The creamy whipped cream makes me grin with delight. This makes me think it's the best meal of my whole life!

Joshua Barroga

Put the 11th of August into the diaries - I have booked an Overnight stay in Dunedin.

There will be more details about this closer to the time.

Senior Class News:



**It does not matter how slowly you go,
as long as you do not stop.**

Firstly, thank you for coming along to our parent information evening last week. Your attendance was appreciated and as always, my classroom life is planned around the collaboration between home and school and all the benefits your support brings to your child's learning.

Last week we had 3 mischievous, noisy, and very cute visitors in our classroom. Three little wild cats took up residence at school and the children showered them with affection. What a joy they were, and now they have found homes amongst the school families. It has been quiet this week with no kittens about. It must be time for a new class pet!

Housekeeping

- a. A big shout out to our whole class - everyone achieved their Mathletic points last week, which is an A+ start to our homework routine. This expectation continues from now on until we have achieved 20 weeks of 1000 or more points on Mathletics - this means we achieve a Gold Certificate.
- b. Homework in general - thank you for getting into the routine of signing the different aspects of your child's homework.
- c. Banqer - earlier this week I sent you all an automated email from the Banqer site regarding the program. It would be interesting for you to ask your child to spend time showing you their Banqer account and talking you through their understanding of it. We will start our Financial Literacy lessons next week and these will continue throughout the year.
- d. Pie warmer: Last week we had the fire alarms go off for a real reason - the children and I are used to hearing them only in practice when we set them off ourselves. Everyone evacuated the school and managed this process positively. We quickly discovered that the fire alarms had been activated because there was food in the pie warmer that had leaked oil from it out onto the element, which eventually led to a smoking and burning smell. Please ensure that any food that is meant for the pie warmer is in an appropriate container for heating.
- e. Science badges - thank you for returning the orders for these. There are a lot of budding scientists in our class.

Club Updates

Our 'Classroom Clubs' are in active mode for the year.

'Young Vinnies Executive':



President(s): Tessa and Fred

Vice President(s): Tom and Mac

Secretary: Chloe

Treasurer: Rosa and Noah

Prayer leader and #1 Motivator: Paige

This term we have decided our main focus will be fundraising for Tonga, to help with the effects of the recent volcanic eruption which happened on 15th of January 2022. We are going to help them by raising money and holding a mufti day, sausage sizzles or working for a business if they need a helping hand. We recently had a Zoom meeting with some Caritas coordinators and they told us about this year's challenge which is called 'One Day'. In this challenge there are 4 different categories and the one we are most keen on doing is called 'Stop It'. In this challenge we have to give something up. This could be devices, shoes or luxury foods for one day. In week six we have a Young Vinnies coordinator, Mrs Bell, coming to talk to us about the Young Vinnies, we will share our fundraising ideas then with her and see what she thinks we should do.

Tessa and Fred (Presidents 2022)

'EnviroClub' - all year 6 and 7 children. This is a new club for our class and the children have hit the ground running. Today we had a special lunch made from school produce with the help of our parents - Cate, Kym and Katrina. What an amazing start they have made, and you can expect to see plenty more happening in this space.

I would like to thank Bailey Dowling for coming down during the weekend and mowing Holy Paddocks so that we can bale up the roughage and promote fresh growth for the 2022 spring calves. Bailey was a past pupil who, like many of my boys, was always tractor mad!



This week the children created these beautiful stones with Mrs Hazlett. I love them and the children are also proud of their creations. They are currently on our prayer table and will come home next week.

The class also painted terracotta pots that we will give to people in term 4. Our plan is to grow the plants that will be in these pots.

Camp Berwick from 11th - 14th April.

Thank you for sending back in the information details for the children. I have sent home the adult medical information form and the police vetting form, for the parent volunteers. These are the adults who are helping at camp. Thank you for your offers.

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs
Scott Smith, Kym Smith, Tony Steele, Simon Elworthy, Cate Herlihy.			
Ryan Dowling Vaughan Dowling Logan Dowling		Geraldine Dowling Ian Hore Fiona Dowling	

I will host a camp meeting for all parents on Wednesday 6th April at 7pm in my classroom.

Swimming

- Swimming in week 5 - next week we will go to the town pool on Tuesday as a class.
- On Friday we will head out to the Patea Swimming Hole. Can the parent drivers please be at school at 11am - Geraldine Dowling, Deborah Smith, Kym Smith, Logan Dowling, Trina Steele, Judy Hore and Cate Herlihy.
- The children did really well with the 4 swimming lessons they had last week. Thank you to those that helped transport them back and forth from the pool.

It feels like we have had quite a busy start to the year!

**Kāore te kumara
E kōrero mō tōna Ake reka.
*The kumara
does not boast of how sweet it is.***

Kind regards,
Geraldine Duncan.

Board of Trustees

At our Board of Trustees meeting on the 8th February Susan presented the following annual documents to the Board:

- Strategic Plan 2022 - 2025
- Annual Plan for 2022
- Target for 2022

We reviewed the following policies:

Safety Management System
Risk Management System
Health and Safety Induction
Visitors

Parents are welcome to read and review any of these policies. To do this you can:

1. Log onto www.schooldocs.co.nz
2. Click Search for your school
3. Start typing the school name and then select it from the dropdown list
4. Enter the community username and password: sjr sjr
5. Put the name of the policy in the search section and it should come up for you to read
6. Select your role (board member, staff member or parent/caregiver) from the dropdown list
7. Enter your name (optional)
8. Submit your ratings and comments

Notices and Dates:

Week 4	Sunday 27 th February	Sunday Mass – 5pm Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Ben Gibson, Xavier Love
Week 5	Wednesday 2 nd March	Ash Wednesday
	Thursday 3 rd March	World Book Day- Dress up as a book character.
	Sunday 6 th March	Sunday Mass – 5pm Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Elliot & Jessica Greer
Week 6	Thursday 10 th March	PTA meeting 7.30pm at school
	Sunday 13 th March	Sunday Mass – 5pm Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Sam & Arthur Elworthy
Week 7	Sunday 20 th March	Sunday Mass – 5pm Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Tessa Steele & Florence Dowling
Week 8	Sunday 27 th March	Sunday Mass – 5pm Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Mac & Finn Dowling
Week 9	Sunday 4 th April	Sunday Mass – 4pm NOTE:Change of time Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Tom & Harry Dowling
Week 10	Sunday 10 th April	Sunday Mass – 4pm Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Rosa & Josie Herlihy
Week 11	Monday 11 th – Thursday 14 th April	Senior School Camp at Berwick
Holidays	Sunday 17 th April	Sunday Mass – 4pm Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Logan & Mckenna Suddaby
Holidays	Sunday 24 th April	Sunday Mass – 4pm Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Fred & George Dowling, Jacob Sutherland
Holidays	Sunday 1 st May	Sunday Mass – 4pm Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Phoebe Hore & Ethan Chisholm





ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

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Phase 3 – Covid Information

Dear Parents

As you are aware, we have now moved into Phase 3 in the Red Traffic Light Setting. As per the Ministry of Education guidelines, please note the following important points.

- If anyone in your family is confirmed as having COVID-19, you will need to notify your close contacts yourself. The school will not be contacting any possible close contacts. Please get in touch with us as soon as you can if your child or anyone in the household has tested positive for COVID-19.
- We recommend that you monitor for symptoms at all times. If your child is unwell please keep them at home. If someone in the household is unwell, please keep your child at home. Seek advice from Healthline or the Medical Centre about getting tested.
- If someone in your household is awaiting test results, it would be preferable for your child to stay home until the test results are known.
- A positive case will need to isolate at home for 10 days, as will anyone else in the household.
- Only confirmed cases and their household contacts are required to isolate.
- Please remember that the school remains a safe place for your children.

Kind regards

Susan Mulholland

What type of contact are you?

